

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claim 5 is canceled, and claims 7 and 8 are added. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features found in canceled claim 5. Support for the amendment to dependent claims 7 and 8 can be found in Applicants' specification paragraph [0033], for example. No new matter is added by this amendment. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Hinze in the July 30, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,970,952 to Hiraga et al. (hereinafter "Hiraga") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,858,526 to Bengtsson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hiraga and Bengtsson, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest "the damper member has greater flexibility in a stamping force direction than the exposed second print face," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action, on page 6, states that the damper member has greater flexibility than the exposed second print face. As discussed with Examiner Hinze during the personal interview, if Hiraga's platen 25 is replaced by the printing blocks 3 of Bengtsson, an excessive amount of force is necessary so that the printing blocks 3 compress and the frame member contacts the stamping object medium (Bengtsson, col. 4, lines 13-28). Therefore, as agreed upon at the interview, the printing blocks 3 (second print face) would have to have greater flexibility in the stamping force direction than the damper member (Hiraga's spring 25a), which is contrary to the features recited in claim 1. Thus, Hiraga and Bengtsson fail to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1.

Additionally, Hiraga and Bengtsson, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the newly added features of claims 7 and 8.


As discussed during the personal interview, Fig. 6 and paragraph [0033] of Applicants' specification disclose the function of the stamping assembly. The combination of the damper member, flange, gap, end of the frame member and holding member prevent the bleeding of ink from the fixed print member. Hiraga and Bengtsson do not teach or suggest a gap between the damper member and the holding member in order to isolate the applied force after the frame member makes contact with the stamping object medium. Thus, Hiraga and Bengtsson do not teach or suggest all the features of dependent claims 7 and 8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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